

The Post-Register

The political pulse

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The election eye

Most election results followed predictions

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A primary which drew the lightest percentage of vote in years brought very few surprises on the Idaho, east Idaho and Bonneville level.

Most of the winners had been forecast, although the size of margins were somewhat larger, and in some case, smaller, than contemplated.

The vote turnout was only 26 percent in Bonneville County, compared with 47 percent two years ago. It vividly reflects the apathy of voters. This also prevailed in most other sections of the state.

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The state Republican races turned out about as had been predicted. Lt. Gov. Philip E. Batt was a decisive winner over House Speaker Ralph Olmstead for the gubernatorial nomination and Jerome attorney Jim Jones triumphed over Ada County Prosecutor Jim Harris, Boise, for attorney general. Nolan G. Young, Boise businessman and former longtime Idaho Falls CPA, and State Sen. Dean Van Engelen are locked in a tight race which may not be decided until after the official canvass.

Of course, Attorney General David H. Leroy was not expected to have any trouble with Ron Hove, Hayden Lake naturopath, for Republican lieutenant governor nomination—and he didn't.

About the only mild surprise was the larger margin of victory than expected by Batt over Olmstead.

The only Democratic state contest came out on the nose with Ricks College professor Richard H. Stallings garnering about 60 percent of the votes over Filer farmer-businessman George Anthony.

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The two Bonneville Republican contests were doped to be tight—and indeed they were. Assessor John J. Wasden won the nomination over his former appraiser, Sherman Norris, but it was only by 150 votes and slightly closer

than anticipated. J.F. Chadband, furniture dealer, may be viewed a mild upset victor for state representative in District 30 over K. Dale Leatham, Idaho Falls High School teacher. This also was by a narrow 148 vote margin.

Wasden had been look on as a slight favorite over Norris but Leatham had been given a hesitant nod by veteran political observers over Chadband.

Chadband, however, likely mounted one of the most intensive local campaigns seen here in years in the final week when he was considered behind, to eke out the victory.

Also predicted on the nose were Magistrate Grant L. Young, Rigby, leading and Blackfoot attorney Reid K. Larsen second to qualify for a runoff for 7th Judicial District judgeship in the Nov. 2 general election. Eliminated were Magistrate Jerry L. Reynolds, St. Anthony, and Blackfoot Attorney Brian Ralph Goates.

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The other three legislative contests were expected to be close and that is exactly what happened. Joan Wood, Lewisville, vaulted to a predicted victory over Lloyd Hicks, Lewisville, for Republican state representative in District 20, made up of Jefferson, Clark, Lemhi and Custer counties. She seeks to replace the retiring State Rep. Wayne E. Tibbitts, R-Lorenzo, and his endorsement of her was considered an important factor in her victory.

The other two legislative races in Bingham County District 27 were close as predicted. State Rep. Cornell Thomas, R-Pingree, fash ioned a 286-vote victory over Gregg Calvin Goodwin for the Republican nomination. His triumph had been anticipated. For the Democratic nomination, young Jerry L. Wellard scored what can be viewed as a mild upset over former State Sen. Ray Alexander 612-520. All agreed it would be tight but most were included to favor Alexander.

This is now all history and the primary winners will face the stern challenges in the Nov. 2 general election. Most are expected to lay off active campaigning this summer until September.